

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UN, NP

SUBJ: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: KING BIRENDRA'S NASC SPEECH

REF: STATE 206706

1. SUMMARY: KING BIRENDRA'S SPEECH AT THE NON-ALIGNMENT SUMMIT CONTAINED NO SURPRISES. IT WAS DEVOTED TO A COMBINATION OF RE-ASSERTIONS OF STANDARD NAC THEMES AND PLUGS ON PERENNIAL TOPICS OF DIRECT NEPALESE CONCERN. THE KING MANAGED TO DECLARE NEPAL SOLIDLY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NAC MAJORITY OPINION, WHILE THROUGH DEFT AND AMBIGUOUS PHRASING AVOIDING FOR THE MOST PART DIRECT OFFENSIVE TO MAJOR POWER SENSITIVITIES. END SUMMARY

2. THE KING HAILED THE PROGRESS WHICH HAS OCCURED IN THE DECLINE OF "IMPERIALISM" (E.G., INDO-CHINA AND PORTUGUESE AFRICA), WELCOMED MANIFEST EVOLUTION TOWARD A MULTI-POLAR WORLD, AND CALLED FOR A HANDS-OFF POLICY TOWARDS LEBANON, CYPRUS AND KOREA. HE URGED ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL OR PRE-1967 BORDERS, RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, AND THE RIGHT OF ALL STATES IN

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THE AREA TO LIVE WITHIN SECURE AND RECOGNIZED

BORDERS. HE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO LAMENTING THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS RACE, NOTING THAT EVEN SOME "MIDDLE POWERS WITHIN THE FOLD OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT" ARE EXHIBITING THE MANIA FOR ARMS-BUILD UP. IN THE CONTENT OF A CALL FOR PROGRESS TOWARD THE "NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER", HE WORKED IN A PLEA FOR THE SPECIAL CASE OF LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES, CITING LACK OF INTEREST WITHIN THE NAM ITSELF AS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR LACK OF PROGRESS ON THIS ISSUE, AND STRESSING THE RIGHT OF LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES TO A PIECE OF THE ACTION IN RESOURCES OF THE SEA. HE SUPPORTED THE ZONE OF PEACE CONCEPT FOR THE INDIAN OCEAN, TAKING OFF FROM THIS TO A LENGTHY EXPLANATION OF HIS PROPOSAL FOR DECLARATION OF NEPAL AS A ZONE OF PEACE.

3. EXCERPTS FROM THE SPEECH WHICH TOUCHED ON AREAS OF DIRECT U.S. CONCERN: "COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY AWARE THAT THEIR DESTINY LIES IN THEIR OWN HANDS, AND THEY CONTINUE TO CARRY ON THEIR STRUGGLE FOR GREATER FREEDOM"; "... SOUTH KOREA AND NORTH KOREA SHOULD BE LEFT TO THEMSELVES TO SORT OUT THEIR PROBLEM OF REUNIFICATION OF THEIR OWN ACCORD AND CHOICE." NEPAL SUPPORTS THE VARIOUS RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (WHICH) HAVE DRAWN THE FRAMEWORK FOR A DURABLE AND JUST PEACE IN THE REGION." THE KING ALSO AFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS TO CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN IT " AS AN EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND PROGRESS. IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE OF NON-ALIGNMENT EXCEPT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE IDEALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS."

4. TYPICAL OF THE MANNER IN WHICH THE SPEECH COMBINED RHETORIC WITH AMBIGUITY WAS THE LINE " IT IS IRONIC THAT SOME COUNTRIES WHICH THEMSELVES ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE OUT OF LONG AND BITTER STRUGGLE SHOULD EMBARK UPON A COURSE AGAINST THE CURRENTS OF THEIR OWN HISTORY." ACCORDING TO THE INCLINATION OF THE LISTENER, THIS COULD BE TAKEN AS A CRITICISM OF THE U.S. OF INDIA, OR EVEN OF THE SOVIET UNION.
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